

REMARKS

In response to the requirement for an election of species as set forth in the Office Action dated June 9, 2004, Applicants hereby elect the species depicted in Figure 6 of the present application. In addition, Applicants note that Claims 1, 2 and 6-17 read on the elected species. In the event that one or more generic claims is ultimately found to be allowable, Applicants request the species depicted in Figures 7, 8 and 9 be included in this application as well. Applicants submit that at least Claims 1 and 6-17 are generic in that they are not directed to any particular one of the four species disclosed in the specification.

In further response to the requirement for an election of species, Applicants respectfully submit that each of Figures 1-18 does not represent a separate species, as indicated in the Office Action. Rather, there appear to be four species, depicted respectively in Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9. Figures 1 through 4 are directed to the operating environment in which the invention may be incorporated, while Figures 5 through 10 and 18 depict constructional details relative to the embodiments of Figures 6 through 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that there are four species currently contained in this application, and traverse the requirement for an election of species, to the extent that the Office Action indicates that there are 18 species.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment and response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.52613US).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Edwards", written over a horizontal line.

Gary R. Edwards
Registration No. 31,824

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
GRE:kms
337189v1